

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claims 17-21, 24-27, and 32-44 are allowed, and claims 48 and 51 are merely objected to and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 17, 37, and 45 have been amended, and claims 22-23 and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, the amendments of claims 17, 37, and 45 merely address matters of form and incorporate a feature of a dependent claim into an independent claim (claim 45).

It is also believed the amendments made herein may be properly entered at this time, i.e. after final rejection, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 because the amendments do not require a new search or raise new issues, and they reduce issues for appeal. In particular, as mentioned above, claims 17 and 37 have been amended to provide further clarity as recommended in the Office Action. Claim 45 has been amended to incorporate a feature of an allowed dependent claim. It is also believed that the application is clearly in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments at this time is earnestly solicited.

With regards to the formal-type objection to claims 22-23, those claims have been cancelled without prejudice, and it is thus believed the objection has been obviated.

Claims 45-47, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Chen et al. (EP 0939339) in view of Jeoung (U.S. Patent 6,358,672) with Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,241,857).

Claims 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over over Chen et al. (EP 0939339) in view of Jeoung (U.S. Patent 6,358,672) and further in view of Garofalo (U.S. Patent 5,338,626).

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For the sake of brevity, the two Section 103 rejections are addressed in combination.

While Applicants disagree with the rejections, it is also believed the amendments made herein obviate the rejections. In particular, claim 45 (the only rejected independent claim) has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 48, which was indicated to be allowable.

In view thereof, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Corless (Reg. No. 38,360)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
Tel: (617) 439-4444
Fax: (617) 439-4170